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GOVERNOR



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING  
AND GENERAL SERVICES**

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RAYMOND H. SATO

COMPTROLLER

MARY PATRICIA WATERHOUSE  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

NOV 18 1998

COMPTROLLER'S MEMORANDUM NO. 1998-36

TO: Heads of Departments  
ATTN: Payroll and Personnel Offices  
SUBJECT: Wage and Tax Statements for 1998

Employees' Wage and Tax Statements (Form W-2) for calendar year 1998 will be sent to you for distribution to your employees with the payroll checks of January 29, 1999.

There are no format revisions to this year's Wage and Tax Statement. Employees will continue to receive only one (1) set of the Wage and Tax Statement. Statements will be laser-printed on two separate sheets of paper.

Inquiries from employees concerning the correctness of the information contained on the Wage and Tax Statement are to be initially reviewed by the departmental payroll offices. If such inquiries cannot be resolved at that level, only then will Central Payroll review the matter. In all cases, the following documents must be submitted to DAGS Central Payroll: a) a photocopy of the Wage and Tax Statement in question; b) a written request from the employee explaining the nature of the inquiry; and c) a memo from the employing department containing its initial research data.

As in prior years, the procedure below should be followed to minimize requests for duplicate statements that have been lost or otherwise not received by employees:

1. Distribute each Wage and Tax Statement directly as possible to the employee. Be sure the chain of responsibility for delivery can be traced in the event an employee claims nonreceipt.

DISTR: AIR-AF, HAR-SF, HWY-SF, BUS-F

2. If the statement is mailed, make every effort to address it to the employee's current address. Please note that, on some of the statements, your own departmental mailing address is used because the payroll files do not contain the employee's mailing address.
3. Also, if the statement is mailed, be sure that mailing requirements are observed as provided in Comptroller's Memorandum No. 1991-30, dated November 26, 1991. It is especially important that the return address on your mailing envelope be followed by the endorsement "RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED" so that any undelivered statement will be returned to you with either an address correction or the reason for nondelivery.
4. Advise employees who have transferred to your department during the year that they will receive one statement which will include all earnings for the year. Reference to the computer report PRE343 "Department List of W-2 Recipients" will indicate the department payroll number and warrant distribution code ("W-2 PR-DST" column) to where the statement was sent.
5. Urge your employees to protect their statements from being misplaced or otherwise lost. There will be a \$10 fee assessed to the employee for a duplicate statement. Please be advised that if a personal check is accepted from the employee and it subsequently bounces due to insufficient funds, etc., the employing department will immediately reimburse DAGS Pre-Audit the \$10 W-2 fee and the \$15 bounced check fee.
6. Retain statements that are returned as undeliverable in a controlled file so that requests for duplicates can first be screened against that file efficiently. Per IRS instructions, keep for four (4) years any employee copies of Forms W-2 that you tried to deliver but could not. The statements are NOT to be returned to DAGS Central Payroll.
7. Make all requests for duplicate statements to the Comptroller in writing, marked to the attention of the Pre-Audit Branch, Clerical Section. All requests must include the following:
  - a. Employee's name.

- b. Social Security Number.
- c. Payroll number, and distribution code as indicated in the "W-2 PR-DST" column on the computer report PRE343 "Department List of W-2 Recipients".
- d. The reason for the request.
- e. The \$10 assessment fee.

Requests for duplicate statements received by us directly from employees will be referred to the departmental payroll offices for proper follow up.

The instructions in this memorandum are intended to provide optimum service to employees, with due regard for the deadlines externally imposed, the volumes involved, and the interwoven workloads of departmental payroll offices and our own Central Payroll office. Your help in forwarding these instructions to the responsible office in your department and in ensuring that the instructions are followed will be critical to that level of service. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

  
RAYMOND H. SATO  
State Comptroller